

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. In a computer system having a host computer coupled to a client
3 computing device via a serial connection, an operating system embodied on a
4 computer-readable medium at the host computer, comprising:

5 computer-executable instructions to listen at a first baud rate for a
6 predefined message sent from the client computing device; and

7 computer-executable instructions to listen at a second baud rate for the
8 predefined message in an event that the predefined message is not received at the
9 first baud rate.

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11 2. An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-
12 executable instructions to listen at the first baud rate for a predetermined period.

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14 3. An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-
15 executable instructions to listen at the second baud rate for the predefined message
16 in an event that error characters not forming part of the predefined message are
17 received at the first baud rate.

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19 4. An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-
20 executable instructions to cache the second baud rate in an event that the
21 predefined message is received at the second baud rate.

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23 5. An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-
24 executable instructions to look up the first and second baud rates in a table.

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1 6. A computer comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 the operating system of claim 1, embodied on the computer-readable
4 medium, and executed on the processor.

6 7. In a computer system having a host computer coupled to a client
7 computing device via a serial connection, a computer program module embodied
8 on a computer-readable medium for execution at the host computer, comprising:

9 computer-executable instructions to listen at a first baud rate at which a
10 predefined message might be sent from the client computing device over the serial
11 connection; and

12 computer-executable instructions to switch to listening at a second baud rate
13 if one of the following events occurs: (1) characters not included in the predefined
14 message are received, or (2) a predetermined timeout period expires without
15 successful receipt of the predefined message.

17 8. A computer program module of claim 7, further comprising
18 computer-executable instructions to cache one of the first and second baud rates at
19 which the predefined message is successfully received.

21 9. An operating system incorporating the computer program module of
22 claim 7.

1 **10.** A computer-implemented method, comprising:
2 listening at a first of multiple baud rates for a predefined message to be sent
3 by a client computing device over a serial connection to a host computer;
4 in an event that characters not included as part of the message are received
5 or the message is not detected within a predetermined time period, listening at a
6 second of the baud rates for the message.

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8 **11.** A computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein the listening
9 steps are repeated until a baud rate is found that allows receipt of the message.

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11 **12.** A computer-implemented method of claim 11, further comprising
12 storing the baud rate that enables receipt of the message.

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14 **13.** A computer-implemented method of claim 10, further comprising
15 storing the multiple baud rates in a table.

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17 **14.** A computer-implemented method, comprising:
18 listening to a serial connection at a baud rate for a predefined message from
19 a client computing device; and
20 automatically adjusting the baud rate in an event that the message is not
21 detected.

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23 **15.** A computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein the adjusting
24 comprises cycling through a set of predetermined baud rates.

1 16. A computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising
2 caching the baud rate at which the message is detected.

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4 17. In a computer system having a host computer coupled to a client
5 computing device via a serial connection and employing a Unimodem null serial
6 protocol to establish a connection between the host computer and the client
7 computing device, a computer-implemented method, comprising:

8 (a) storing multiple baud rates at which a predefined message may be sent
9 from the client computing device over the serial connection;

10 (b) selecting one of the baud rates;

11 (c) listening at the selected baud rate for the predefined message;

12 (d) in an event that the predefined message is not received, selecting
13 another of the baud rates; and

14 (e) repeating steps (c) and (d) until a baud rate is found that enables receipt
15 of the predefined message.